



King County

Metropolitan King County Council

King County Auditor's Office

Cheryle A. Broom, *King County Auditor*

King County Courthouse

516 Third Avenue, Room W1033

Seattle, WA 98104-3272

206.296.1655 Fax 206.296.0159

TTY 296-1024

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Dear Citizen Councilor:

The Auditor's Office is pleased to welcome you to this forum on **Citizen Priorities for County Government: Budget and Strategic Options**. Your participation and feedback are essential to the success of this innovative partnership between King County and its citizens and will go a long way toward encouraging and promoting the values of civic engagement in the region.

We realize that this is not an easy topic nor is it one about which many people are knowledgeable, but the goal of this program is not just to promote public participation, as worthy a goal as that is, but also to enhance citizenship education in county government and to provide important feedback to our elected officials. The video and Opinionnaire® are designed to provide you with some background information while introducing you to complex budget and strategic issues. The discussion will give you an opportunity to structure and expand your views before you share them through the Opinionnaire®. Once all the responses are tallied, a report will be posted in early April 2009 on our website at www.KingCounty.Gov/Operations/Auditor/CommunityForums. Other materials, including the report from the 549 councilors who participated in the first round of forums on the topic of transportation are also posted on our website.

The mission of the Auditor's Office is to promote and improve performance, accountability and transparency in King County government. While the Citizen Councilor Network and its Countywide Community Forums are managed by citizen volunteer coordinators, the Auditor's Office assures that the topic reflects the interests of the community, that all materials are suitable and even-handed and that all data is handled with proper care. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please email the Countywide Community Forums Program Manager at Chantal.Stevens@KingCounty.Gov.

We know that your time is valuable, and we appreciate that you chose to invest it in this community engagement process. We also hope that you consider this program sufficiently worthy to encourage your neighbors, friends and family to register and participate.

Sincerely,

Cheryle A. Broom
King County Auditor